



Irish Patients' Association

21st November 2012
Mr Gerard O' Donnell.
O'Donnell Waters Solicitors
Angus House
Dock Street
Co. Galway

Re: Inquiry into the death of Dr. Savita Hallapanavar

Dear Mr O'Donnell

We have followed with sadness the experiences of your client Mr Hallapanavar and his tragic loss.

Like so many families following catastrophic events they want and need answers and explanations to their questions and accountability if justified.

We would suggest to Mr Hallapanavar to consider requesting the Health Information and Quality Authority (H.I.Q.A) to independently investigate the circumstances surrounding the events in Galway. While HIQA business and corporate plans are presented to the Minister they are accountable to the Oireachtas in relation to their annual report and are further accountable to the Public Accounts Committee and the Joint Health Committee which are sub committees of the Oireachtas.

HIQA has the Trust of the IPA as an independent investigator.

The Irish Patients' Association is mainly funded through a service agreement with the Health Service Executive. We value and protect our independence through a memorandum of understanding which protects our editorial independence. Our independence is a matter of public record over the years.

Our reason for existence is to advocate and support patients and their families who have encountered bad experiences of the healthcare system; be it clinical, medication issues, bad management or inequity of access to healthcare.

Together with patients and their families we recognise the importance for the system to learn from these experiences.



Irish Patients' Association

The Irish Patients' Association manages approximately 500 cases per annum and have 50/60 on going cases being reviewed at any one time, covering from the most serious events of fatalities to less serious injuries.

By copy of this letter to Minister James Reilly T.D we request him to ask the H.S.E to stand down it's inquiry to allow HIQA to proceed.

Yours sincerely

Stephen McMahon
Chairman

Cc Dr James Reilly T.D Minister for Health